

# Sermons FROM Science

*Groundbreaking  
at the  
New York World's Fair  
1964-1965*



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Excerpts from transcription of remarks made by officials of the Sermons from Science Pavilion and the World's Fair at groundbreaking ceremonies for the Sermons from Science Pavilion at the New York World's Fair, Thursday, August 1, 1963.

ROBERTO DE MENDOZA [Deputy Chief of Protocol]: Dr. Humphries, Mr. Stam, Mr. Hickman, Mr. Jensen, General Potter, Mr. Beach, distinguished guests. We are here this afternoon to witness an important ceremony of great spiritual and scientific significance—the breaking of ground for the Sermons from Science Pavilion.

Mr. George R. Hickman, vice chairman of the Committee for Sermons from Science at the New York World's Fair, will now give the invocation.

MR. GEORGE R. HICKMAN: Let us pray. Our Heavenly Father, we come humbly into Thy presence, thanking Thee and praising Thee for the wondrous things that Thou hast done so far, and looking ahead as we break ground and start construction on this building for this great event in our time. We look unto Thee for

leadership continually. We praise Thy name for the wondrous things that Thou hast done to date; and, Father, we pray that as we construct this building, You will guide and direct everything that is done, that the people who have a part in it will share in the blessing, and that through the ministry of this program we might see many come into the Kingdom of Heaven. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

DR. DE MENDOZA: Thank you, Mr. Hickman. I now have the pleasure of presenting Mr. Allen E. Beach, director of International Exhibits at the Fair.

MR. ALLEN E. BEACH: Thank you, Mr. Ambassador. Dr. Humphries, distinguished guests. Governor Poletti is the one who should rightfully be here today at this important event to greet you and welcome the Sermons from Science Pavilion to the International Section of the Fair. However, he is away on a few days of well-deserved vacation so I'll say a few words in his behalf, and in behalf of the International Division.

I often think of great world expositions as a punctuation mark in history, when the nations of the world come together in one spot in a friendly, peaceful atmosphere to compare notes, to take a look at where they have been,



**COVER:** The Sermons from Science Pavilion will contain a 500-seat theatre for science demonstrations and films; earphones and a panel at each seat will enable foreign visitors to dial any one of six languages. The architect is H. Robley Saunders, Robert Chamides is associate designer and construction is by the Howell Construction Company.



where they are now, and where they are going. Certainly a World's Fair of this magnitude would not be complete without the representation and participation of the important religious organizations of the world. So we are very happy that there are so many religious organizations and groups participating in the Fair, and we look forward, in Sermons from Science, to this unique presentation of Christianity to the millions of visitors that will be coming to the Fair.

We know the success that you had at Seattle; many of us visited your pavilion there and we are delighted that your message can now be told at the New York World's Fair. Thank you.

DR. DE MENDOZA: Ladies and gentlemen, before introducing the next speaker, I have the honor of presenting some personalities among our distinguished guests: Mr. Dan Piatt, director of the Billy Graham Pavilion; Mr. H. Robley Saunders, architect for the beautiful Sermons from Science Pavilion; Mr. Ralph Howell, who represents the Howell Construction Company which will build the Sermons from Science Pavilion. And now I have the honor to present General William E. Potter, executive vice president of the Fair.

GENERAL WILLIAM E. POTTER: I know that we're all greatly impressed with the dynamism of modern religion, in seeing that our Fair has a proper and imaginative showcase in which to impress upon the world the undying truths that serve us as our guidelines in life. We congratu-



Dr. James H. Humphries at the Sermons from Science Pavilion site.

late and thank you for adding to our ability to present your concept to the world's public.

DR. DE MENDOZA: Our next speaker is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario. After practicing medicine in Detroit, he was appointed, in 1933, assistant medical director and, in 1954, medical director of the Home Life Insurance Company. He is a member of the American Medical Association, of the New York County Medical Society, of the Board of Life Insurance Medicine.

He is also president of the McAuley Water Street Mission and chairman of the Christian Businessmen's Committee of New York. I have the privilege to present Dr. James Humphries, chairman of Sermons from Science Committee of the New York World's Fair.

DR. JAMES H. HUMPHRIES, M.D. [Chairman of Sermons from Science Committee]: Thank you, Dr. de Mendoza. General Potter, Mr. Beach, all you good friends at the Fair who have helped us in our plans and preparations. On the Sermons from Science site there will rise, in the providence of God, a pavilion of striking design, in which millions of visitors to the Fair will be reminded, through Sermons from Science, that this amazingly intricate universe in which we live is indeed the handiwork of our omnipotent God.

Moreover, our visitors will be shown through accurately documented scientific demonstrations, live and recorded, that this great God of Creation is also the God of eternal salvation. The main portion of the building will provide a 500-seat theatre. Many unique electronic devices will be utilized in the presentation of the program, among which will be equipment by means of which many international visitors will be able to hear the messages in their native tongues. The smaller portion of the pavilion will provide areas for conferences, and ample grounds are provided which will be appropriately landscaped and which will set the building off very effectively.

The daily program will include twelve 30-minute pres-

entations, and, apart from three live demonstrations, each day's program will vary from day to day.

On behalf of my associates in the Sermons from Science Committee, and its sponsoring body the Christian Life Convention, I would like to thank the New York World's Fair Corporation— Mr. Moses, General Potter, Dr. de Mendoza, Mr. Beach — all who have had a share in the allocation of this delightful site and have been so helpful in negotiating the problems which we have faced. Finally, may I include a word of recognition to our architect Mr. H. Robley Saunders, to his associate designer Mr. Robert Chamides, and to the Howell Construction Company. Thank you very much.

DR. DE MENDOZA: Thank you, Dr. Humphries. Our next speaker is a graduate of the New York Law School; he served in the United States Army during World War I. He was admitted to practice before the Bar of New Jersey in 1922, as a counsellor in 1928 and before the U.S. Supreme Court Bar in 1951. Among the many high posts of trust and responsibility he holds, he is president and trustee of the Latin American Mission, Star of Hope Mission, Paterson, New Jersey, and the D. M. Sterns Mission Fund. He is a member of the board of trustees of the Billy Graham Association and of the Winona Lake Christian Assembly. He was recently reelected president of Gideons International. He is a life trustee of the Pocket Testament League and director of Young Life Campaign and of Youth for Christ International. It is my privilege to pre-



sent Mr. Jacob Stam, board of trustees, Moody Bible Institute.

MR. JACOB STAM: General Potter, Dr. de Mendoza, Mr. Beach, Dr. Humphries, distinguished guests. It is a great privilege to be here today, to be in on the ground floor of this symbolic ceremony for the Sermons from Science Pavilion.

I am pleased that this is a united effort. It is my privilege to serve as vice chairman of the board of trustees of the Moody Institute of Science. The interest is broad, and I am glad that this task is under the sponsorship of such a united committee. Members of the Christian Businessmen's Committee International, members of Gideons International, men interested in Moody, men interested in the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, and many organizations over a broad front are working together in every way possible in order to have a sound, interesting, exciting evangelical witness at the Fair.

Dr. Irwin A. Moon is the boss man at Moody Institute of Science. In the early days when he had more time, he personally demonstrated Sermons from Science. I shall never forget my first attendance at such a demonstration: the platform at Mecca Temple in New York City was filled with heavy equipment and many gadgets that attracted attention, but when Irwin Moon stood up to read the Bible, *this* commanded attention and diverted it from the equipment and the gadgets to the reading of God's Holy Word.

George Speake has done a remarkable job in presenting Sermons from Science to audiences all over the country. His most notable run was at the Seattle Fair, where he carried on for 186 days without interruption, giving a personal demonstration three hourly periods each day, and directing demonstrations or running films and documentaries for the remaining hours of each day. And almost every hour the house was jammed; this was one of the most popular exhibits at the Seattle Fair, not only to sit down and rest the body, but to stimulate the mind to right thinking and to high purpose.

Mr. Robert Moses, speaking at the groundbreaking for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, said that high in the list of exhibits are the religious organizations. I believe that Sermons from Science will have a most useful place there. The purpose of the Fair is "Peace through Understanding." Solomon, that wise man, pointed out that the beginning of understanding and instruction and wisdom, is a right relationship with God, or the fear of God, as the old English expressed it. A prayer of Moses is recorded in Psalm 90, in which he prays "So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." And then he says, "Let Thy work appear unto Thy servants, and Thy glory unto their children, and let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish Thou the work of our hands upon us, yea, the work of our hands establish Thou it." And then the Psalmist, in Psalm 92, says, "For Thou Lord hast made me glad

through Thy work. I will triumph in the works of Thy hands."

This universe is filled with the work of God, His work in creation, His work in preserving this universe, and making it tick, making it run on time, and also His work on this earth in miracles of grace, in saving men through the finished redemptive work of Jesus Christ. This world is also filled with the works of men. For some of these, man takes all the credit. For some of these, God is given the glory. I shall never forget the dedication of a dam which impounded the water for a great reservoir. Standing below the dam and looking up at it, this was a mighty, big, impressive object. The engineers received due credit for designing and building it; but, sometime later in flying over it and getting a different perspective, I noticed that the dam appeared to be only a tiny cork in a tremendous open jug or bottle formed by the mountains — which, of course, were made by God without cost to the taxpayers.

Science is the state or fact of knowing — systematized knowledge derived from special study and experimentation. Science is not opposed to God and the Bible. These Sermons from Science will demonstrate what God has created, what is known about it, what God has said about it; and it will be demonstrated how this is relevant to the needs of men.

And to these demonstrations there will be response, I know, in the hearts of men to the claims of Christ. I believe that Sermons from Science will influence many peo-

ple with the good news, the gospel of The Lord Jesus Christ. Not by tedious, long and annoying sermons, but by most interesting and exciting applications of the findings of fact by scientific demonstration and the relevance of the gospel to every situation.

DR. DE MENDOZA: Thank you, Mr. Stam. I now have the honor to present Mr. Conrad S. Jensen, vice chairman, Committee for Sermons from Science at the New York World's Fair, who will offer the dedicatory prayer.

MR. CONRAD S. JENSEN [Vice Chairman, Committee for Sermons from Science at the N. Y. World's Fair]: Heavenly Father, as we gather here in the midst of this World's Fair, as we've been amazed at the demonstration on this model in front of us, as we begin to contemplate what some of this will really be like next April, Lord willing, we are reminded that Thou hast ordained man to climb to great heights in science and technology. We thank Thee, Lord, for the things that have been accomplished in the field of medicine to make lives that are in desperate need, liveable.

We thank Thee for the other sciences that have helped us from day to day. And yet Lord, in the midst of this, in the midst of a land of plenty, in the midst of all of the wonders that Thou hast bestowed upon us we are reminded of the hate and the bigotry and the violence and the things that go round about us, because men have not learned to live with Thee. Lord, as we dedicate the ground



upon which this building will be built, we pray that the Holy Spirit might so dedicate us — that we might show the love of Christ wherever we go, and those that live in hate and fear might come to know Him before it's too late.

We thank Thee for the scientific finds that have brought people closer to Thee, and we pray that the millions of people that will come here, heartsick and weary, looking for a little relaxation, and a respite from the things of the world, might come into the Sermons from Science building, and find the only peace that really lasts — the peace that the Lord Jesus Christ can give, when we give ourselves to Him.

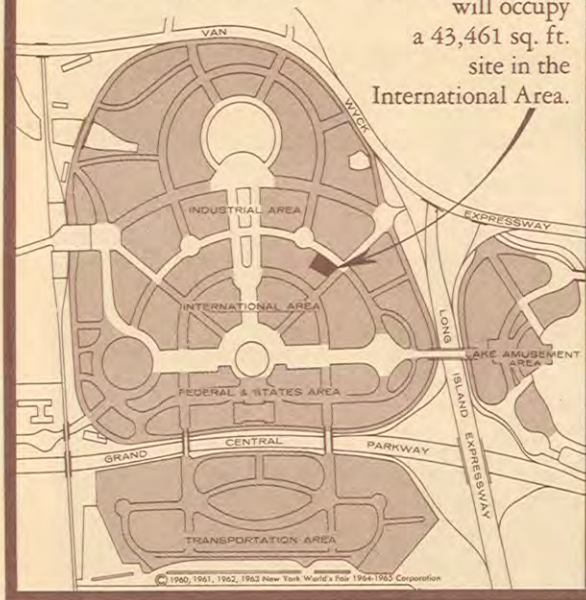
Lord, we dedicate this building not as a monument to the builder or the architect or those that have contributed, but a monument to Thy faithfulness. Thou hast said in Thy Word, heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word shall never pass away. Even, Lord, as we are reminded that these buildings will be destroyed in a couple of years and taken away, we realize that one day this entire world that we love so much will also be destroyed. We pray that Thou wilt help us know Thee as Saviour, to live life before others so that they might see Christ. We ask, Lord, that this building might continue, in the two years that it's here, to give forth the gospel that many might come to know Thee. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



General William E. Potter, executive vice president of the Fair, presenting the World's Fair medallion to Dr. James H. Humphries, chairman of the Sermons from Science Committee.

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